

Acetes Shrimp on the Florida East Coast

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DURING spring when commercial shrimp are known to be spawning, shrimp boat operators are often much concerned over the many small shrimp of less than an inch in length which become entangled in the meshes of the nets. These shrimp are transparent when first brought on board, but as they dry out they become opaque and drop from the nets in large numbers. Concern is sometimes so great that the shrimpers wish to have the grounds closed at this time of year to avoid the unnecessary killing of "millions of baby white shrimp."

Recently, however, it was learned that these are not the young of the commercial shrimp but are instead adult members of the family Sergestidae (Joyce, 1965). To verify this, specimens were sent to Dr. L. B. Holthuis of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, Netherlands, who kindly identified them as *Acetes americanus carolinae* Hansen.

This sergestid occurs from North Carolina throughout the Gulf of Mexico and south to Brazil. There are two subspecies, of which *A. a. carolinae* is the northern form (Holthuis, 1959). Consequently, the appearance of these small adult shrimp should in no way hinder or cause concern to shrimping operations on the east coast of Florida.

LITERATURE CITED

- HOLTHUIS, L. B. 1959. Crustacea Decapoda of Suriname (Dutch Guiana). Zool. Verh. Leiden, no. 44, pp. 1-296.
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